



METAL FINISHING TECHNOLOGIES, LLC

Before the Commerce Committee 2/10/23

Testimony of Peter Mirabello- Chairman MFT, LLC

S.B. No. 950: AN ACT CONCERNING MANUFACTURING, WORKFORCE SHORTAGES AND TRAINING.

S.B. No. 951: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

H.B. No. 6319: AN ACT CONCERNING EFFORTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TO ASSIST IN THE RECRUITMENT OF PERSONS INTO MANUFACTURING PROGRAMS.

Good afternoon,

Chairwoman Hartley, Chairman Meskers, Ranking Members Martin and Harrison and distinguished members of the Commerce Committee. My name is Peter Mirabello and I am former CEO and now Chair of the Board of Metal Finishing Technologies LLC located in Bristol CT. I am here to speak in SUPPORT of SB 950, SB 951, and HB 6319, which supports the recruitment of persons into manufacturing programs. An issue that is at the forefront of our industry and a hindrance to our growth in the state.

We are a 75 year old, Bristol based, Metal Finishing company. The benefit of this bill would hit close to home.

Manufacturing opportunities abound in the state for both large and small manufacturers. But it's not a secret that the work force headwinds are making it difficult for companies to grow.

For us in the Metal Finishing Industry, the workforce challenge is compounded. In that, although finishing is critical to manufacturing supply chain for the likes of GD, Raytheon, LHMC, medical fields, automotive, industrial, commercial, to name a few ~ these products are ubiquitous ~ *and the need for these services is never going away*. But the skills necessary are not being taught anywhere in our schools. As a result, much of this critical work gets shipped out of state. Along with it good paying jobs and careers. Not to mention the negative effect the extra cost and extended turn times has on the competitiveness of our Ct based customers.

To address the first need, training. Over the past year, MFT has put together a coalition of more than 10 companies (friendly competitors) who have come together to tackle the first piece – build the curriculum needed to teach and instill these career skills. Secondly, we are working on establishing a Finishing Training and Technology Center of Excellence, which for permitting reasons, are hosting right on our campus. These companies face all the same workforce headwinds and inability to compete because of this. It is our goal to work with technical schools and community colleges to give students a direct pipeline to a career upon completion of the program.

These proposals support the third need, behind the curriculum and classroom, and that is to help get the word out about a career in finishing or any other manufacturing. These are tech based jobs, with lifetime transferable skills, with a keen eye on the environment, that are critical to all manufacturing.....And they provide or lead to family sustaining wages.

SB 950, SB 951, & HB6319 will help continue to attack a problem and turn it into a win for the companies, the state, the employees, and their families that count on them.

Thank you for your time, please feel free to reach out to learn more or with any questions.